

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00737 211413 Z

41- S

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11

GAC-01 MBFR-03 RSR-01 /106 W
----- 110901

R 211331 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5804

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0737

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FI

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN

1. I PAID MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TODAY, MARCH 21. THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED WAS FRIENDLY IN SPIRIT, BASED AS IT WAS ON THE GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD OVER THE YEARS. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT FINNS HAVE MAINTAINED A FAIRLY GOOD BALANCE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US AS THEY PURSUE THEIR POLICY OF ACTIVE NEUTRALITY. I REMARKED THAT THE BALANCE IN MY VIEW COULD HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT BETTER. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN VOLUNTEERED THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT LIKE THE ANTI- US BIAS IN THE FINNISH STATE RADIO AND TV, BUT PART OF THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT SO MUCH OF THE MATERIAL THAT IS USED COMES FROM US SOURCES. I REPLIED THAT MY COUNTRY IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION BUT PROFERRED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FINNS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY CHOKe US WITH OUR OWN VIRTUE.

2. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO THE CURRENT FINNISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SAID HE WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE APPARENT IMPASSE WHICH WE ARE WITNESSING THESE DAYS IN THE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT' S EFFORTS TO PUSH THROUGH DOMESTIC ECONOMIC LEGISLATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00737 211413 Z

DEALING WITH PRICE AND INCOME POLICY. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD HAD TO INTERVENE IN 1971 AND THAT IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO DO THE SAME A SECOND TIME. HE THEREFORE HAD TO WEIGH EVEN MORE CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS STEPPING IN. HE REMARKED ALMOST WISTFULLY THAT HIS PRESIDENTIAL POWER IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD SEEMS TO BE LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN THAT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I REMARKED THAT AS I HAD OBSERVED HIM IN ACTION IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE FINNISH PRESIDENT HAD EXTENSIVE CONSTITUTIONAL POWER IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS TACKLING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD IN A PRAGMATIC MANNER.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION PRESIDENT KEKKONEN EXPRESSED HIS AND HIS WIFE'S ENTHUSIASM OVER THE POSSIBLE VISIT TO FINLAND OF MRS. NIXON. PETERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN00737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730335/aaaaiedm.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971219
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN
TAGS: PFOR, FI, n/a
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005